DECEMBER 1949

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THE MISSIONARY

HERALD

AT HOME AND ABROAD

VOL. CXLV, No. 9 DECEMBER • 1949

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ANDREW VANCE McCRACKEN

Their Right, Your Opportunity

The birth of each child is the promise of a better tomorrow, if . . .

One of the most savage battles in the War between the States took place when the armies of the North and South faced each other outside Richmond.

But one night, all of a sudden, the Confederate lines were lighted from end to end by huge bonfires. Astonished Union sentinels soon learned that word had been received of the birth of a son to the Confederate commander, General George E. Pickett, at his home far behind the battle-line. The bonfires were in celebration of the event.

Immediately, General Grant ordered the cessation of Union hostilities; bonfires were lighted in comradely celebration all along the Union lines. And under a flag of truce, a messenger was dispatched to General Pickett and his men bearing felicitations and gifts from the Northern army.

Christians everywhere will likewise pause in this month of December, 1949, for a temporary truce in the cold war of the West and the shooting warfare of the East, to celebrate, with traditional carols of gladness and gifts to each other, the birth of the whole world's Child some 2,000 years ago in ancient Palestine.

The star of Bethlehem will once more point the way so that modern wise men may discover as their predecessors have done that our certain hope in a time of hopelessness lies in Christ's wisdom-about-life; and that by setting a child in the midst of his disciples and saying, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven," Jesus gave us the best promise of a better tomorrow.

WORLD OF TOMORROW

For the world of tomorrow is born at the birth of each child; and the future of our country — and the world — lies germinating in the children of today.

If that is true — and we firmly believe it is so — the following conditions have some frightening implications:

(1) Millions of children are growing up in regions of political, social and spiritual chaos without benefit of any friendly, to say nothing of any

These fortunate children, representative of those we serve in all parts and corners of the world, enjoy with gratitude the advantages which we have helped to give them, but which must be expanded if we Congregational Christians accept our full responsibility.

Christian, guidance and assistance;

(2) One-half of the children in our own country are growing up without formal spiritual nurture, and multitudes are being reared in inadequately churched communities where the religious life suffers from sheer default and incredible neglect;

(3) Even among our Congregational Christian churches, there are approximately 1,000 which have neither church schools nor the barest programs of religious education; and it is incredibly true that most Protestant churches in the U. S. have neither adequate facilities nor competent leaders and teachers;

(4) The personalities of children are being warped and our society is being imperiled by family disintegration caused not alone by our rising number of broken homes but also by the lack of fellowship and Christian spirit within homes where no open break has actually occurred.

THEIR MINIMAL RIGHTS

In the face of these and other ominous conditions which no sincere Christian dares to overlook or underrate, we Congregational Christians believe, therefore and thereto, that all children, whoever and wherever they may be, have a minimal right to the following basic necessities:

A. *They have the right to health.* Children are entitled by right of birth to healthy and durable bodies. This calls for adequate medical care; including preventive and therapeutic attention, with clinics, hospitals and other special services;

B. *They have the right to literacy.* Talent unexercised, capacity unused, genius unstirred for lack of education is a tragedy. Talent, capacity and genius directed to unchristian ends for lack of knowledge and vision is the world's greatest waste;

C. *They have the right to opportunity.* The voices of children, hundreds of thousands strong, are crying out for deliverance from frustration and despair. It is our opportunity to open new vistas of expectation and hope for them;

D. *They have the right to security.* Existence for multitudes of children is poisoned by fear. They need homes where security is built into character. They need an order of society based on respect for the individual. They need the steadying knowledge of God's care and concern;

TOO LITTLE LOVE

E. *They have the right to love.* Each child is born with an amazing capacity for love and with a beautiful responsiveness to it. But there is too little love for the hearts of children in today's "world of wrath and tears." We, therefore, are bound by our love of Christ to make love available to every child we may touch.

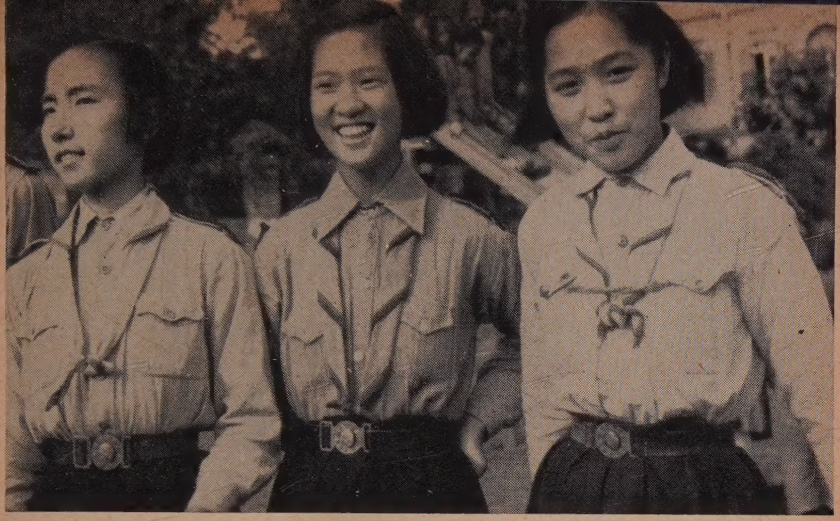
So, believing that all children have a basic and inalienable right to these advantages, we Congregational Christians, through *Our Christian World Mission,* propose to strengthen the following globe-encircling network of services, institutions and programs for children and youth by means of which, please God, the above rights may be in some greater measure achieved:

1. The organizing of new churches in unchurched communities, and the revitalizing of marginal churches in communities which have suffered critical religious depletion;

NETWORK OF SERVICES

2. Renewed and greater emphasis upon the teaching office of our churches, the reconstituting of the Christian family as the primary center of religious education, and a more effective use of radio, film-strips and movies in religious education;

3. A more generous support of Christian schools, colleges and service centers at home and abroad, and the



This picture of students at our Foochow School for Girls reinforces our belief that all children everywhere should receive the sort of understanding, guidance, encouragement which make life emotionally mature, morally sound, intellectually free, and Christian.

strengthening of the religious forces within or near the campuses of schools and colleges supported by the community or government;

4. An acceleration of our historic ministry of justice and mercy in the struggle of underprivileged and minority peoples for liberation from the shackles of unequal opportunity;

5. The provision and distribution of clothing and goods to the destitute children of war-torn countries, a special service to displaced children by resettlement and a spiritual ministry, and a program of aid to theological students and church children in needy countries.

OUR CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITY

The pages of this issue of *The Missionary Herald* are overspread with brief accounts and descriptions of various aspects of this world embracing program on behalf of children.

And each one of us will have an opportunity, in this Christmas season, to contribute to and to multiply these services to children through:

A. The special Christmas Season Offering to be received in each of our Congregational Christian churches;

B. Special individual gifts sent through local church channels or direct to one of our agencies;

C. The use of idle, that is unused, dollars in the treasuries of women's organizations and other groups within our churches.

Wise men of today will do well to pause this Christmas, in memory of the birth of the Child, and to come, in His name, bearing gifts for the children of the world.

For wise men know that every child has rights which God himself upholds and, in Christ's name, they will give generously, through *Our Christian World Mission*, that children, at home and abroad, will receive, from infancy through youth, the understanding, guidance and encouragement which make life emotionally mature, morally sound and intellectually free.

Illustration on page 3 by Leonard Nadel and on page 5 by courtesy of the American Board for Foreign Missions.

OUR MINISTRY TO CHILDREN

IONE CATTON

Begins AT HOME

The author outlines some essential Christian services for our own children here in the U. S.

Bending over a desk in the early evening, a young mother with a trained mind and a facile pen writes at the top of a fresh page: "Lesson Four; 'How God Speaks to Us.'"

She is surrounded by Bibles, a concordance, pictures and text books. She listens to the friendly play of her children in the next room, and happiness lights her face. Closing her eyes she calls to inner view boys and girls in the Cumberland Mountains, in New York City, on the plains of Kansas — and others — and others — who will read the pages which she writes. She glances at a picture of Christ above her desk. "Make his path straight," she reminds herself as she returns to her writing. These pages are important.

They will pass from hers to other desks where wise judgment and editorial counsel will correct here, simplify there, add an illustration in this place, a repetition for emphasis in that paragraph. Then her book will go to the printing press, to the postal department, and on to thousands of churches.

As this young mother signs her manuscript, forming in her mind a prayer for every child who may read her words, other writers bring their manuscripts to a close, hoping that their pages may explain to boys and girls in clear, sure words who God is, how he speaks to people, how he loves them, how to read and understand his word. An essential service of the church is preparing teaching materials that will help our children to learn from the Great Teacher.

MINISTRY TO UNCHURCHED

On a June morning in 1949, twelve young men were en route to Vermont: by bus from Yale and Bangor Seminaries, by train from Chicago, by car from Andover Newton. They were going to spend the summer among hundreds of unchurched families in the Green Mountain State.

As they covered the miles to their various destinations, the purpose of their mission became more and more clear. Familiar with the Christian gospel through long and careful nurture, they were on their way to homes among the hills which, for at least nine months and in many cases

One significant service of the Board of Home Missions to our children, in this time of conflicting faiths, is the preparation and distribution of outstanding Christian literature for use in our homes, church schools, youth fellowships and other church groups.

Our Christian World Mission is resolved that the rights of the home shall be safeguarded and that the Christian family shall be the primary center of our religious education.

twelve, have no open church, no inter-family worship, no place where hymns and prayers and the spoken word may guide and comfort them. They were on their way to children who, in "Christian America," had never really understood the angels' promise: "Peace on earth, goodwill to men."

UNLOCKING CLOSED CHURCHES

These twelve would unlock the closed churches, open the closed Book, and prepare the way of the Lord in the hearts of children who waited only for teachers to accept their right to the abundant life.

As they made their way to Vermont, others like them went to the unchurched areas of other states. For a part of the unfinished business of the church is to bring the gospel message to unchurched children before it is too late.

Wide-eyed, a small boy clings tightly to his mother's hand and looks up for assurance. They landed this morning on Ellis Island with thirty others; some from Latvia, a dozen families from Esthonia, many from Austria, from Germany and Poland. They are some of the Displaced Persons whom we hear about. Frightened, bewildered, speaking no English, without money and without friends, they gaze in awe at Manhattan's skyline and then look back to the ocean over which they have come. These are the strangers in our midst.

But the church is there to meet them. With a warm smile and outstretched hands, Mrs. Jennie Pratt, who represents our Fellowship, makes them feel a little more at home. For the few hours or days that they supposedly must remain on the Island (this often extends into weeks) she provides warm clothing to those who need it, toys for the little

children, English lessons as a start, Bible lessons and a copy of the English Bible, a lunch box for the train journey to their new home, a prayer with them and for them. Men and women from Church World Service or from our own Service Committee then come to care for them, responding to the spiritual mandate: "Forget not the stranger that is in your midst."

PUERTO RICAN MINISTRY

Where more than half of the children have never in their lives had any milk, where many ten year olds are no taller than healthy children of four, where an unbelievable percentage of infants cannot survive their first year, there the American flag officially flies. This is Puerto Rico. Overcrowded, with insufficient industry to supply a livelihood for its two million impoverished and disease-ridden people, the Island (in spite of its flowers and its magnificent government buildings) suffers miserably and its children suffer most.

For more than a hundred years our churches, through the Board of Home Missions, worked among children of Indians to insure rights.

Our churches have built the Ryder Memorial Hospital, where God's healing power lies in the skill of the doctor's hands and in the ministry of the nurses; where children are born under safe conditions and mothers taught how to care for them; where good but inexpensive diets are planned, and health information is carried into homes throughout the Island. Now multiply Ryder Hospital by twenty-nine. This is the number of hospitals or health centers that our churches maintain. Here is a service we must render to broken bodies — many of them very young.

BUILDING NEW CHURCHES

The people of Prairie Village, a new suburb of Kansas City, Kansas, are building a new church. Take note that the people are building it quite literally. Planning every detail: altar and nursery and baptismal font; a parking lot; a carefully designed entrance "that will give a warm welcome" as the builders say. One family is making and giving the pulpit and the altar table. Groups are making classroom furniture and the outdoor sign; women are sewing curtains. Each family is buying a hymnal for itself and one extra for newcomers. This church is a spiritual "must" for Prairie Village. For almost over night the town was born. Sundays came and went but there was no public worship. Some parents began to worry. "Our children!" they said. "They need religious instruction. We need it, too, so as to be better parents. But what can we do, this little group of ours?"

Then all our Kansas churches, and the rest of us through our Church Building Society, came to help. A young minister, one of our most promising, was commissioned to serve these people. He acquainted himself with the families, with whom he talked about their children's need for religious guidance and teaching, their

adult need for a church and a minister. This young parson, the Rev. C. Fosburg Hughes, had faith. He became their pastor. A substantial gift of money, and a loan which will be repaid, came from hundreds of our church members, through their regular pledges to apportionment giving.

EXTENSIVE SERVICES

We are helping groups like this in thirty-two new communities with grants and loans, for we must build new churches if only that our children may have their rights.

But this is not all. The sun never sets on our services to boys and girls who are to make tomorrow's world. While Chinese Bible women gather the little ones to teach them the words of our Lord, students from our church-related colleges are on their way by ship and plane, to teach boys and girls in Japan and Turkey. While migrant children in America, whose parents follow the harvest and have no settled home, are befriended by young ministers who travel with them from crop to crop, Robert and Marie Fairbanks, on furlough from our mission in India, return to that field with a new station wagon, the gift of our churches, a long-hoped-for means of reaching isolated families in rural India. The mental prison-house of illiteracy opens to release thousands whom Dr. Frank Laubach is teaching to read not only in far off lands, but also hundreds of Navajo Indian children, and their parents, in our own Southwest. A busy young American businessman, successful as an executive but failing as a father of two boys, turns to the Family Life Commission of our Fellowship and is glad to have suggestions for family

Picture of our Trinity School, Athens, Alabama, reminds us that our American Missionary Association has founded nearly 500 schools and colleges for education of Negroes.

Our program calls for new churches in inadequately churched communities, and the revitalizing of all our churches here at home.

councils, for prayers to use in the home, and guidance from the Bible for solving problems that perplex him. Our six Community Centers in this country and our Rehabilitation Centers in Europe are teaching children the meaning of the word "neighbor" which they hear now for the first time, and so they learn what a Christian community can be.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

We will celebrate in a few days the birthday of the Holy Child, whose life is the light of men. We are accustomed to kindle many lights on that day, upon our trees and in our window casements, in our churches and homes. But let us wait for a moment in silence. Have we not forgotten something? The light which Christ gives us is not chiefly for ourselves. It is mostly for the children, and particularly those whose lives are very dark. There are so many of them, hungry and sick and ignored and denied every right to really live.

But our story is incomplete. It breaks off in the middle. For the church is made up of people and not enough of them seem to care. Yet do we care? If so, let us say to ourselves, each one of us, in the words of the ancient Book, "How shall I go to my Father unless the lad be with me?" Then let us pray, far more sincerely than before, that we may help make children happy while they live, and help make their lives more worth the living. So we will give more sacrificially and gladly than we ever thought we could. And we will tell each other with a new tone in our voices: Come, let us light our Christmas candles. For the Lord is here.

Miss Catton is a Resource Secretary of the Missions Council of our Congregational Christian churches.

Illustrations by Religious News Service, U.S. Indian Service, Marion Palfi and Leonard Nadel.

DANIEL HAND EDUCATIONAL FUND FOR COLORED PEOPLE

Income for the month of September, 1949	$ 5,346.18
Income for 4 months ended September 30, 1949	$22,308.95

Little Kil Soon, whose mother died when the girl was born, and whose father deserted her, was taken in by the Christian orphanage, raised on powdered milk supplied by our churches, and given some of the blessings to which children have inalienable rights.

and this Christmas, you have an Opportunity

Children of TRAGEDY

But through our Service Committee and Church World Service, some wonderful things have already happened.

STANLEY I. STUBER

"While angels sang on the hillsides, and the great white light from a beautiful star above a stable streamed into the night, the King came. He came as a little child, and Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes, as the way is with babes, and laid him in the manger.

"And out of the East came wise men bearing rich gifts for the Child of Promise."

CHRISTMAS IS THE PROMISE

Nineteen and one-half centuries later Christian people celebrate Christmas as they have done each year since Jesus's birthday. They know that Christmas is the promise of a civilization yet to be; they have learned that man is a being in whom God can dwell; they have faith that the world can one day be filled with men and women of goodwill.

But there is too little love for the hearts of children in this year, as stated in the editorial of this issue of *The Missionary Herald*. But they have a right to more. Christian workers who see through fantasy to fact send back reports from the four corners of the earth that for many there has been only hunger, hate, degeneracy and fear.

Children in Greece? There they are . . .

"Near the Salonika rail yards, the old Fix Brewery has been taken over by a few hundred of the 706,000 refugees who have swarmed into the larger cities. The roof has holes and the windows are gone, but the brewery is divided by cardboard panels into family 'pens.' Open fires built outside or on the wooden floors provide what heat there is for warmth and cooking. Rats, vermin and filth are everywhere along with scores of emaciated children. Recognizing us as people from abroad, the children cry, 'Food!'"

STARVING CHILDREN

How does it fare with the children of India and Pakistan?

"I have just come from the hospital. How emaciated these people are and how little food we have to offer them. They pour into our camp which already contains 35,000. Refugees sometimes travel for months looking for a place to earn a living.

"Children come to the hospital so starved that they cannot eat. They have had no bath for weeks and their skin is covered with sores and lice. Their hair is so matted we have to

Another Quonset Hut Church is dedicated in Tokyo, replacing a church destroyed during the war. Six of these temporary structures have been sent to the Christians of Japan.

cut it off. Many of them die."

Such reports could be extended if there were space. Children by the thousands are being stunted by hunger and deprivation, emotionally withered by a lack of love, in danger of becoming anti-social and so an easy prey of moral nihilism or political totalitarianism.

But through the Congregational Christian Service Committee and Church World Service, some wonderful things have already happened because of this world service in behalf of children.

STORY OF KIL SOON

Here, for example, is a Korean child named Kil-Soon, whose mother died when she was born, and whose father brought her to the Christian orphanage and left her there for temporary feeding. He never appeared again, and so the orphanage directress found a family which was eager to adopt a baby girl.

Kil Soon was raised on powdered milk which had been sent by Church World Service ever since 1947 for distribution from the central milk station in Wonju. Her formula and that of all the fifty other babies fed by the orphanage each day, is prepared by the trained nurse without charge. But many grateful families insist on making gifts of money for this service which sometimes represent one-fifth of the breadwinner's salary. Twenty of these children are motherless, and none of them could have lived without such aid.

A RIGHT TO LIFE

Maryse Labie, of Crest, France, is one of a great number of unwanted youngsters who are struggling for life outside the security of a home. Her father died and her mother neglected her so badly that she often spent whole nights out in the street, or sometimes in the homes of neighbors. When her mother was committed to an asylum and Maryse was sent to the Crest orphanage, she moved about like a beaten dog and had forgotten how to laugh.

But the twenty-five children at Crest, to which Church World Service has contributed generously, are all like members of a family and there Maryse found herself at last. In this environment her personality

developed, proving how truly Nicholas Mosser had spoken when he and his wife set up the orphange. "We want God to be the master of the house, and the love of God to be its inspiration," he said, and it was not long before results began to show.

TRANSFORMED PERSONALITIES

The transformation of child-life in the Crest orphanage has been so remarkable that children who were once outcast and broken hearted are now blossoming into personalities which are completely new. Even little Maryse who came under so discouraging a handicap is improving both physically and spiritually, finding her own place and making her own contribution, performing the tasks in dining room and kitchen whenever her turn comes. When someone asked her what kind of a life she looked forward to, she shyly smiled and said, "To have a nice home like Madame and Monsieur Mosser. They are such a wonderful family and have such a darling child."

All children have a right to life, to the security of a home and family, and to health. It is a Christian obligation, therefore, to help repair the damage done to child-bodies which have been crippled and diseased by war.

The young son of Dr. Ayusawa in Tokyo, Japan, has been fighting T.B. for nearly three years. Five grains of streptomycin shipped air-freight from America by Church World Service, checked an additional throat ailment which might have been fatal; while steady rations of milk and fats are guaranteeing his progress toward recovery.

Plans are under way in Japan for the production of streptomycin, but it will not be available in commercial quantities until some time in 1950. Meanwhile, the precious vials of this

Our Service Committee and Church World Service cooperate to meet our inescapable responsibility for rescuing our Protestant fellow-Christians from DP camps of Europe.

healing drug are, as has been said, like "angels of mercy flown to the victims of T.B. who would be doomed to certain death without them."

Substantial quantities of other medicaments have been shipped into sixty different countries and were received with infinite gratitude, for they have meant the saving of life, the easing of pain, and often the release from discomforts of children who have suffered many months from scabies and skin boils.

SELF-RESPECTING PERSONS

To children whose injuries cannot be cured by medicine or hospitalization, shipments of artificial limbs are sent and vocational training is given.

Finding jobs and providing an opportunity for becoming self-supporting members of society, are also part of a Christian's responsibility to the coming generation.

See what has already been done for a boy named Gerd.

He lost his father in Russia, and his mother worked on a Polish farm until she died of fatigue and starvation. Gerd was driven out by the Polish farmers but made his way to Frankfurt and then into Berlin. He worked at the shoemaker's trade until he got into trouble and headed westward to the British zone, living like thousands of others on the black market — trading, stealing, selling.

One night he saw his mother in a dream. Awakening conscience-stricken, he thought of what she would say if she could see him now. That morning he made inquiries about a place in which to live and work. He was advised to go to the Christian Youth Village at Adelheide, where he could support himself and learn a trade. So Gerd established himself in the Protestant section and soon became known as a difficult case for the teachers and pastor to deal with.

But the Christian Youth Village exists for just such uprooted and emotionally injured boys and girls. They are taught to work with patience and love, to be clean and self-respecting, to accept responsibility, and to enjoy constructive recreation.

Any boy stands a fairly good chance of getting a job after a three-month stay at Adelheide. For the Christian Youth Village is taking on more and more economic significance. Large garages in the village are mechanized to serve as workshops where the boys can learn carpentry, shoemaking, plumbing, and other trades. The great airfield was plowed up and is cultivated as a garden.

A special arrangement has been made with the miners in the Ruhr, and the mining industry sends teachers to prepare boys who are interested in the mines. A pastor for youth in this area visits them regularly and looks out for their moral and spiritual welfare.

To provide for the spiritual guidance and development of war-born children and young people is the basic objective of all Christian efforts no matter what may be its actual expression. In view of this, Church World Service helps in supporting pastoral service for many dispersed and destitute congregations.

CHRISTMAS BELONGS TO ALL

So our wise men of 1949 will bring generous gifts to our children. There will be food for the starving ones; a chance to work and earn a livelihood for those a little older and in need of jobs; and over all will come a renewed realization that there is a God who cares. For Christmas is a timeless joy and it belongs to all. And in the deepest sense it is a right — the right which belongs by spiritual inheritance to every child on earth.

Dr. Stuber is the Director of Promotion of Church World Service.

Illustrations are by courtesy of Church World Service.

How Can You Help These Children?

HERE ARE THREE PRACTICAL WAYS

ALBERT D. STAUFFACHER

Many of our people and churches have contributed generously to *Our Christian World Mission,* but we are still far short of the goal. The Christmas Season Offering and Year-End Appeal for the children whom our churches serve at home and abroad through the work of the State Conferences, the Board of Home Missions, the Council for Social Action and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions give all our people an opportunity to share in this ministry.

The opportunity is three-fold:

1. **Through a generous Christmas Season Offering to be received in each of our Congregational Christian churches;**
2. **Through special individual gifts sent through local church channels or direct to one of the agencies named above;**
3. **Through the use of idle, that is unused, dollars in the treasuries of women's organizations and other groups within the churches.**

The appointed representatives of *Our Christian World Mission* are at the stations where need is greatest to serve children of the world in His name. They have the devotion, the tools, and the know-how. God has entrusted to us, the people in the churches, sufficient money to multiply many times the usefulness of these representatives of ours. What is needed now is a flow of gifts in order that an open door of opportunity and promise may be set before the children of the world under our care.

Dorothy P. Cushing

They all have Inalienable RIGHTS

. . . no matter who they are, where they live, or to what race they belong.

Every missionary is sure of at least one thing: Children have inalienable rights no matter who they are, where they live, to what race they belong.

And so all the work of our American Board for Foreign Missions is directed to the needs of children everywhere. Although differences of background, of custom and belief determine the method of approach, the task is always the same; for children have the same desires, the same love of life, the same habits of play.

FOUNDATIONS FOR CHARACTER

Our American Board for Foreign Missions has forty-three kindergartens, 1,006 primary and elementary schools, and educational centers, including colleges, through which to build foundations for character, to satisfy the inquiring mind, to shape and enrich the personality, to strengthen the soul.

While teaching the three R's and training students for handicrafts and trades, our schools bring the light of a redemptive love into countless fear-haunted hearts. For above all and beyond all, we teach the gospel of Jesus whose respect for little children marked the beginning of a new respect for children's rights.

A SCHOOL ON WHEELS

An unusual kind of educational approach to one of the more primitive areas in our Congregational Christian foreign field has been devised by Carl and Lois Dille in Elende, West Central Africa. They call it a "Movable School" for it travels out among the people at a distance from the central mission schools.

When the Dilles first experimented with this program they hardly expected more than 200 to 300 to respond. But at their first stop they were confronted by 800 and at the second 1,500! Children swarmed into those schools and learned many things, all the way from Bible stories, songs and games to a lesson in personal hygiene through a spraying of DDT!

An example of what child nurture in Africa can do is seen in the case of little Songo who first came to the school at Elende. With all the ear-

This orphan, of India, looking at the pictures in *The Missionary Herald* at our mission in Mathurai, is symbolic of our purpose, through *Our Christian World Mission*, to make health, education, opportunity and love available to every child we may touch here and overseas.

These four Korean orphans, saddened early by hunger and loneliness but eager for love, are being reared in a Christian mission, supported by gifts from churches in the U. S.

marks of a national leader, he was of royal blood; but because he was a Christian he had been disowned. With help from the missionaries, he worked his way through school and is now a competent teacher. Here are a few sentences from his grateful letter to the Dilles:

"I see you all with the eyes of my heart . . . Thank you very much for the help you sent me which came from America . . . The person who sent the help has the heart of Christ . . . God bless him and may his wisdom grow. . . ."

COMPETING WITH COMMUNISM

Where communism gains power there is little encouragement to religious training even when it is not actually prohibited. And if we do not see that the right to a life of opportunity and freedom is given the children, it is certain that the promise of communism will attract them instead.

Our earlier missionaries in Africa built well for our times as well as for their own. And so our present missionaries have good foundations for their work. The Rev. Henry Nawa, pastor of the Doornfontein church in Johannesburg, and coworker with Dr. James Dexter Taylor, talks with his children about religion as freely as about school or food or any other thing. And some of the youngest children answer him with a wisdom worthy of a spiritual sage. For here in Africa when the rights of children are respected the response is true and beautiful.

But Dr. Taylor realizes that decent economics are as closely linked with the good life for a Zulu child as for an American in one of our more comfortable homes. One day he came across this discussion in an examination paper: "How did Jesus happen to be born in a stable?" To which the little girl had replied: "Because there was a housing shortage in Palestine." This child was growing up in one of Johannesburg's shantytowns where about 60,000 Africans exist in shacks of sacking and corregated iron.

Yet always our Congregational Christian missionaries stress religious

education as the foundation of everything else. It is done in Africa through the mission day schools and the church schools. Beginning in January, 1950, a new young missionary, Miss Corrine Nordquist, is starting a special program.

MEDICAL AID FOR CHILDREN

Our American Board for Foreign Missions serves children medically all the way from conception to birth, and then continues through baby-clinics, feeding centers and kindergartens. We have twenty hospitals and thirty-three dispensaries besides many public health centers and child care units. The diseases we have to deal with are the same as those which are peculiar to children everywhere, together with a whole range of tropical ills including typhus, cholera and a type of bronchial pneumonia more common there than here. Much if not most of child illness stems directly from malnutrition.

For seventy-five years our Mexican missions have carried on, with the result that Protestantism is stronger, churches are prospering and our Guadalajara school is overflowing.

There are many children in our Congregational Christian hospitals throughout North China who have been injured in explosions of stray shells or hand grenades left behind by the war. Medical workers not only give first aid to the victims of such accidents and other physical troubles, but carry on a general program of preventive hygiene through anti-epidemic inoculations as is illustrated in the Public Health service of Helen Dizney in Peiping.

Although in Japan we have no program of medical work, clinics are installed in our social centers, while medical aid is offered by such competent missionaries as Mrs. Otis Clapp and others.

CHRISTIANS ARE CONCERNED

There is, for example, the case of a village named Gunge where Robert Grant discovered a large incidence of trachoma. He got in touch with the high school principal and the village doctor, and interested them in starting a clinic for prevention as well as cure. Mr. Grant saw a Bible on the physician's desk. "Are you a Christian?" he asked. "No," replied the doctor, but went on to explain that his nephew at Doshisha had sent him several Bibles which he then showed with some pride. Signs of wear seemed to indicate that they had been read much more thoroughly than the Bibles of a good many Christians. Then, turning to Mr. Grant, he said, "You are concerned with the trachoma here because you are a Christian."

The twenty-six social centers of our American Board for Foreign Missions around the world are dynamic agencies of Christianity in action, and each one tells the Christmas story in more than words or song. One in particular is conducted for the destitute children in Tientsin, North China, by Miss Ruth VanKirk where the smaller youngsters are cared

for and the older children are taught to be "little mothers." After Tientsin was taken over by the "Liberating Army," Miss VanKirk's work was somewhat restricted but by last report she was helping out at the YWCA and running a School for Worker's Children.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

A most interesting service for children was launched in Turkey by Miss Dorothy Blatter of the American Board Publication Department in Istanbul. It is known as Book Week. Turkish children had almost no books to read, and Miss Blatter secured the cordial cooperation of the local government in its educational department to make up for this deprivation. She has translated into Turkish and published in illustrated editions such of our familiar childhood favorites as *The Hundred Dresses, Fussbunny, Monkeyface, George Carver, Boy Scientist,* and so on. Just how much this means to the children can be gathered from the photograph which shows a group of eager children at the Book Exhibit, gazing at *Pandora.*

Religion is not taught to children in Turkey below a certain age, but our teachers try to create altruistic attitudes based on Christian ethics, and the children respond to it.

One school carries on a hospital project. Every autumn, a certain class becomes, for a single period each week, a workshop for making toys; and as soon as the dolls or scrap-books are ready they are taken to the children in the hospital by a volunteer. Altruism has not been widely cultivated as a principle in the Near East, but the children trained in our schools take it out with them into life. For, under our encouragement, they learn to recognize and insist upon the rights, not only of themselves, but of all.

In Japan, Miss Frances Clapp, in addition to all her other duties, un-

A successful book service and exhibit for the children of Turkey have been launched by Dorothy Blatter, one of our missionaries. Miss Blatter has translated into Turkish and published in illustrated editions many familiar favorites, hitherto unknown in Turkey.

Our well-known missionary, Frances Clapp, gives guidance to unmarried Japanese mother and her baby abandoned by a GI father.

dertook the guidance of eight unmarried American occupation-mothers and their babies whose GI fathers abandoned them when they returned home, thus making up as best she could for callous disregard of decency on the part of American young men from supposedly Christian backgrounds.

And here is another example of our practical concern for children's rights and for putting the Christmas spirit into actual life.

STORY OF AN ORPHAN

Sita was a little gypsy girl, born into a high caste tribe. Her father died of cholera and her mother of smallpox soon after. Deserted by the tribe, she was picked up by an Indian Bible woman who found her sitting by the roadside, unwashed, hungry and heartbroken. When Miss Frances Dyriam, the Christian worker, prepared and offered her some food, the child, still caught in the fear of breaking a tribal tabu, asked despite her hunger if the teacher were "low caste!"

"Sita," said Miss Dyriam, "I am neither low caste nor high caste. I'm a Christian and Christ came to earth to show us that we are not different because of caste . . ." The child's fears subsided and soon she was bathed, fed and given a place to rest. Did you ever hear the Christmas story told more perfectly than this?

A self-sacrificing woman, but very poor, Miss Dyriam finally had to take Sita to the school in Madura where village girls are trained in handicrafts. Although the little gypsy hated the confinement between four walls she was fascinated by the things she learned. Soon she had made her first stuffed animal, a kangaroo! Then one day a distinguished visitor arrived, the Archbishop of Brisbane himself, who wished to take back a souvenir to Australia.

FIRST CHRISTMAS EVE

Turning to Sita, Miss Oline Nicholson asked if she would give the Archbishop her kangaroo to show children in another country. Smiling happily, Sita presented her precious handwork to the churchman with all the grace of a high-born lady. And today that kangaroo is in the crèche of the Cathedral at Brisbane, while Sita's story made the front-page news. And in the angels' song there will always be some hidden phrases about such things as Sita and her kangaroo.

Sita's eyes shone like stars on her first Christmas eve. The carols, the pageant, the Christmas story entranced her. She almost danced with happiness as she joined the other girls in lighting her lamp at the Christmas altar; and the expression of her face was unforgettable to those who stood nearby. And later she returned to the same village where she had been found: just as Jesus returned to Nazareth where he grew up: and, says Miss Gertrude Chandler who tells this story, "Many believed because of her word."

Miss Cushing is a member of the staff of the Missions Council, and the News Editor of our American Board for Foreign Missions.

The illustrations in this article are by courtesy of the American Board, the Religious News Service, and by Leonard Nadel.

Let's develop ou

No intelligent person believes — and our author does not say — that our children will be saved by law alone. But Christians in earnest about the state of society should support all programs to develop human resources.

human resources, too

CHILDREN ARE ENTITLED BY LAW TO BETTER SERVICES AS A MATTER OF BASIC DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Thomas B. Keehn

"We spent more than one thousand times as much in research on the care of cattle, pigs and farm problems as we did in research on the care of boys and girls," was the startling statement with which George Hecht, editor of *Parent's Magazine,* opened his testimony before a Congressional Committee on an important bill affecting the welfare of children.

As in other years, the 81st Congress has considered many pieces of legislation concerned with child welfare. The results have been negligible. Only one — the school lunch program — has been approved. Yet, 1950 should be a big year for children. The mid-century White House Conference on Children and Youth will be held sometime around June. And this should be a rallying point for citizens and Congress to take positive action in the interest of our more than 45,000,000 young people under eighteen years of age.

1950 LEGISLATION

Here are a few of the things which the second session of the 81st Congress, which meets from January to July, 1950, can and should do for the welfare of children:

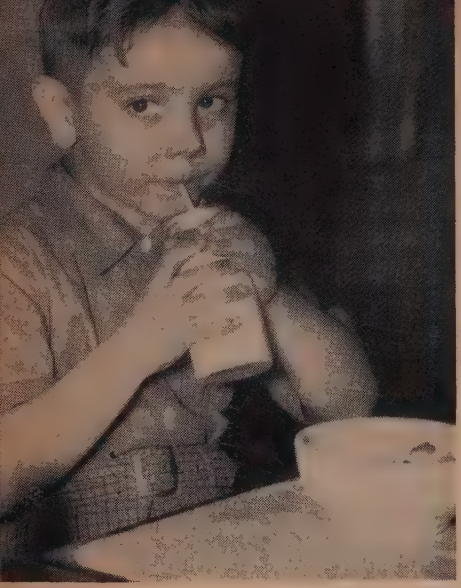
Problem Children: The problem child is the result of a complex interaction of personal, family and social factors. Here are some signposts indicating the seriousness of the problem: 100,000 children are born every year outside of marriage; eight per cent of our children under eighteen — that is, 3,800,000 — live with only one parent; 275,000 children are brought into our juvenile courts each year and many times that number come to the attention of police.

and this Christmas, you have an Opportunity

CHILD RESEARCH INSTITUTE

There is no easy way out of this situation. One thing, however, would help, and this is provided for in a bill to establish a National Child Research Institute within the U. S. Children's Bureau. The Institute would make grants to government and private agencies for research in the physical growth, the social adaptions and the emotional development of children, thus going to the root — causes of juvenile delinquency. No action on this bill was taken in the first session of Congress but it is on the calendar for 1950.

Education: More than 30,000,000 boys and girls are in elementary and secondary schools, the largest number in our history. But, two million young people between the ages of six



The National School Lunch Program, assuring a child of one well-balanced meal a day, has paid off in the general health of children.

and seventeen are not in school at all. By 1960, there will be nearly 10,000,000 more school-age youngsters, which means that instructors must be added each year to the nation's teaching staff. New buildings and equipment will be required.

Federal aid to education would help to meet this situation, although local and state support is even more important. Legislation now before Congress calls for the appropriation of $300,000,000 for teachers' salaries, school supplies, maintenance and other operating costs. But such bills have been before Congress for nearly twenty years. One, S.246, passed the Senate in the first session of this Congress, but it became snarled up in the House with the issue of welfare aids to children attending parochial schools. If an equitable compromise can be reached — and it should be! — this will be a great boon to our school children.

Another piece of legislation, the School Survey and Construction Bill, would provide $500,000,000 a year for six years for school building construction. Over-crowding and half-scheduling in many school buildings prove the need for this program. Funds would be allocated to the states in proportion to the number of school-age children in the state, the ratio of state funds to federal funds being fixed on the basis of "ability to pay."

Health and Welfare: Although America can be proud of its over-all medical care and health facilities, there are wide regional differentials which deny many children the benefits of our advanced therapeutic skills. Children in isolated rural areas, for example, receive only one-third of the medical care that is given to those in metropolitan districts. Children in well-to-do states, such as New York, receive more than twice as much care as those in low income states such as Alabama.

HEALTH SERVICE BILL

The children of America are entitled to better services and to greater security as a matter of basic democratic rights. And we should see that they get them.

The National School Health Service Bill is aimed to help meet the health and welfare needs of children in other ways. Many states spend for school health less than two cents a year for each child. The health services bill would provide $35,000,000 a year for grants-in-aid to states for furnishing this care to all our children. It has passed the Senate and awaits consideration by the House. Its provisions include dental and medical examinations in all schools; and aid in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of physical and mental defects which might interfere with the normal development and progress of our boys and girls.

A bill has passed the Senate to provide Federal aid to help states establish and maintain Local Public Health Units in all areas. But the House bill to meet this same need has not yet been reported by the committee. The importance of this legislation becomes apparent when one learns that there are millions of American children for whom no full-time local health service is available, while many existing services do not meet the minimum standards of the American Public Health Association.

Child Labor: Three-quarters of a million boys and girls of fourteen to fifteen were gainfully employed in May, 1949, which is more than three times the number similarly employed in 1940. More than one out of every four children of fourteen to seventeen years, were earning wages in May, 1949. Many of these children are agricultural workers and belong in the group known as "migratory."

CHILD LABOR

The Fair Labor Standards Act, adopted by Congress in the 1930's, prohibited child labor in industry. But it gave the children of migrant families only the slight protection of a provision which prohibits a child from accepting agricultural employment "when legally required to attend school." This gesture was little better than no protection at all, because many states have such loosely constructed school attendance laws that no migrant child can be "legally required to attend school." Yet picking beans for long hours is as exhausting to the immature child as tending a factory machine.

This session of Congress has therefore adopted a strengthening amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act, which extends the present prohibition of agricultural child labor to cover all periods "during school hours," and to make enforcement possible in states which allow crop holidays or have inadequate school attendance laws. This should be a real forward step in removing the blight of child labor and in giving our children their rights.

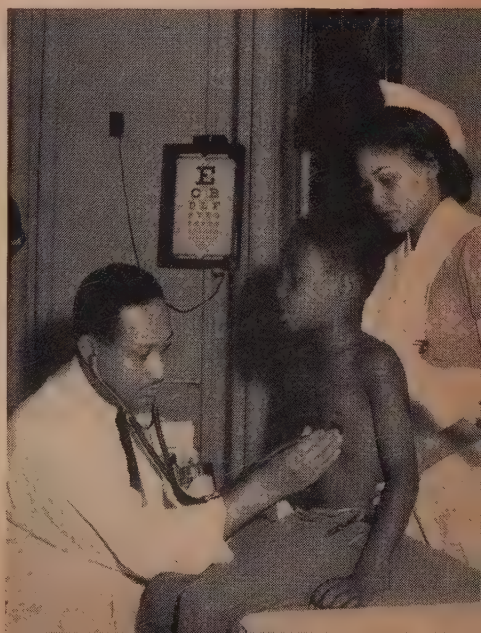
And so we "inch along" in our slow progress toward a decent regard for the children of our nation and the world. But as long as we realize their rights and keep alive our consciences, we will continue to advance.

C.S.A. PROGRAM

As we pay our homage to the Christ Child in this Christmas season, let us feel for all children a new sense of responsibility — and support generously the legislative program of our Council for Social Action and work through law for better services to children as a matter of basic democratic rights.

Mr. Keehn is the Legislative Secretary of the Council for Social Action.
Illustrations in this article by courtesy of Religious News Service.

It is plain that school health services are presently far from adequate. National School Health Services Bill will help to meet need.



MARIAN SCHNEIDER

My year with the children of Coventry

Bill Reynolds, leader of this group which is rebuilding a London chapel, was one of our Service Committee representatives abroad.

The work of our Service Committee is "a living sign of our care and concern."

As I look back over my year as a service worker of our Congregational Christian Service Committee at Hillfields Congregational Church in Coventry, England, two special events stand out in my mind.

The first was the Christmas party for the primaries. What excitement there was as they arrived! Millions it seemed of coats, hats and mittens had to be taken off and put in a big pile. How many unrecognizably clean faces there were and how quickly the pudding and tea disappeared.

The main feature of the evening was the passing out of toys and bags of candy which were sent over by our churches in America. You could almost see little minds at work while they were being told that the children in America had wanted to share with them a nice Christmas. Each toy was exclaimed over and admired. It was a most joyful occasion and the deacons, who were especially invited, said they hadn't realized that there were so many children in the world, much less in their own Sunday school.

Towards spring it was decided to have a special Mothers' Sunday. We arranged for a nursery during the service and a "cup of tea" afterward. A committee of women from the congregation was chosen and during the weeks preceding this event the neighborhood mothers were again visited, this time by a committee member. The evening proved to be a surprise from two points of view. The mothers without exception regretfully said, "Why I haven't been

in a church since I was married."

This section, Hillfields, is what the people who live there call reluctantly a slum area and then hasten always to add, "But it didn't use to be."

THE NATIVE COVENTRIAN

Ever since the first World War, industrialized Coventry has been the center for great movements of population. The native Coventrian has seen his city change from an old guild town whose speciality was weaving and watchmaking, into a modern industrial city where first were manufactured the "new-fangled contraptions" called bicycles, then automobiles and now jet airplanes.

Hillfields had to take most of the "foreign" element, this being a mixture of Irish, Scottish, Welsh, and some East Indian. Here, in miniature, were laid out all the problems of a super-industrialized community. Intense poverty was most evident; living conditions were appalling with some 70,000 homes for 220,000 people to crowd into; and all the domestic problems that go with this sort of thing, along with racial incompatibility, stared one in the face.

It is amazing how these deprivations showed themselves in the children. They would linger every afternoon on the way home from school, dressed scantily in cold weather with sometimes only a sweater; the boys playing football with a rolled-up paper ball. Rather than be left alone in the evening after dark, many children went with their parents to the local pub. The "Leopard" was just across from our church and I have seen little boys and girls fagged-out with waiting for their parents, fast asleep on the doorstep. The Indian and Greek children of Hillfields had the extra handicap of "being different" and they would play alone in the alleyways and dark rooms which made up their "homes."

The Hillfields Congregational Church stands on the corner of Vine Street and there I carried on my work. My official title as an American Service Worker was that of assistant minister, and my job included an undergirding and support of all church activities, plus visiting and sick calls.

Miss Schneider and Service Workers meet with Dr. Stauffacher of the Missions Council.

But my particular project was to do what I could to draw the church and community closer together. Here the children in the Sunday school made a valuable bridge. Since the majority of them came from the surrounding neighborhood, their parents had no other contact with the church. The church members themselves lived too far away or else were too advanced in years to make a special trip. So I went directly to the parents.

I soon discovered that the children came to Sunday school with little or no encouragement at home, although most of the fathers were glad enough to have them away on Sunday afternoon so as to enjoy "a bit of quiet." But the children came in spite of the distrust by many parents of what actually went on.

CHILDREN ENTHUSIASTIC

The children themselves, almost without exception, loved to come. They were excited about each new project that their department would undertake, whether it was learning a new song, drawing new pictures or modeling with clay. The younger group departments were so crowded that everyone had to sit in his chair and do "seat work." In the older group department there was much eagerness about dramatics and so in some cases we would act out the lesson. One little girl came prepared to act the part of Jesus with her face covered with cold cream. When someone asked her why, she replied seriously, "Because it says in the Bible, that Jesus had a shining face."

Mothers were always anxiously concerned about their children and sometimes in unexpected ways. If the youngsters came home and asked for the Bible, parents were often at a loss to understand why anything of this kind should happen on a weekday. Often when I visited a home, the mother would call out to her children, "Here's the Sunday school teacher and now she's going to tell me how bad you've been in Sunday school."

This is only part of one American Service Worker's experience and to me my relationships with the children of Hillfields were always important. As I became better acquainted with them and their homes I could feel their need more and more and grew poignantly aware of their desire to be cared about and their wish for something that they could do or "join." The children were the unconscious indicators of and participants in the needs and problems of this community.

In many cases in England, the fact that American Service Workers have come, even if only for a talk or a conference, can do remarkable things. It can bring a fresh viewpoint and a new perspective. The idea that perhaps there is another way of doing things, of teaching a Sunday school class, of having a youth club, is stimulating to their imaginations. And underneath there grows up a realization that this person does not behave at all like an American of the sort they would have expected.

A SIGN OF CONCERN

To church leaders and ministers who seem always to be battling against tremendous odds, who are tired and feel very much alone, it is a living sign that there are people far away who are immediately concerned with them and wish to show this by tokens of Christian love. It is one way in which we can see to it that the rights of children are more fully respected out of sincere Christian understanding.

Miss Schneider, a graduate of Carleto College and Union Theological Seminary in New York, is Youth Leader of Pilgrim Congregational Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

Illustrations in this article by Religious News Service

The CHRISTMAS FUND

PERCY C. LADD

"This is the day for the Christmas check." So the hundreds of our pensioners have said each December 24th for nearly fifty years now, and they have never been disappointed. So it was last year when our pensioners, 450 of them, were remembered, and more than 300 others. For the fourth consecutive year the churches poured into the treasure house more than $100,000, $100,591.99 to be exact, 6,672 individuals and churches sending in their offerings.

One cannot really compute the sum of happiness these checks gave and will give. Can a pensioner, if he is a man with a wife, live on our average grant of $323 a year with current prices; or a widow on her average grant of $240? The Christmas check means a little more in a lean purse. Mrs. A. up in New England will use it to help her daughter with household expenses. Mr. B., out on the plains, will spend it to keep the oil tank full when the storms blow in from the north.

All through the year a portion of the Christmas Fund is held in reserve to help all the men in the ministry meet the sudden adversities which may smite them at noonday. When we consider that one half of our churches have less than 100 members we realize how many of our men

on small salaries, cannot cope with operations, accidents and repairs. The Christmas Fund is their refuge in the time of storm.

The person at the post office window in the picture on the previous page is one of those who will be receiving her Christmas check. She is the widow of a minister who gave about forty years to the churches. Now, over 80, she is making her home with her daughter, the postmistress in the picture. Ill health absorbs regularly nearly half her grant.

The man in the picture trimming his hedge (above) has given 30 years to the churches. "My mother died when I was ten years old. My father passed away before I was born. I attended school three to four months a year until I was about sixteen years of age. I lived with my grandparents on a little farm and they were as good to me as any father or mother could have been. At twenty-four I entered an A.M.A. school at Grandview, where I worked my way for five years. Then I made my way through Atlanta Theological Seminary." Recently he resigned because of ill health. His Christmas check will help him balance his budget.

"I have just learned that Mr. X, pastor of our church at Y, has had to go to the Mayo Clinic, and to have an operation. They have given him every consideration, but I know that his salary is only Z dollars. Do you suppose you could spare him $.... from the Emergency Fund?" Variations upon this theme come to the Board of Ministerial Relief from superintendents, associates or friends, the year 'round, nearly one hundred times last year. They will come again this ensuing year, and because of the generous outpouring of the churches, help can be sent in the day of need.

If you wish to increase the joy among the Servants of the Cross at Christmas and all the year, you may send your contribution to the Christmas Fund, Board of Home Missions, 287 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Make checks payable to THE CHRISTMAS FUND.

Dr. Ladd is Associate to the General Secretary of the Ministerial Relief Division.

Illustration page 31 by courtesy o McCall's Magazine.

PLEASE NOTE

In accordance with action taken by the Ad Interim Committee of the Missions Council, the January issue of "The Missionary Herald and Conference Editions" will be omitted. This action is taken to meet budgetary requirements. The February and subsequent issues will appear as usual.

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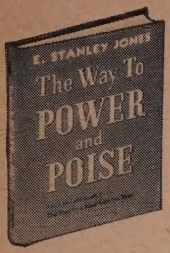

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